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Secretary of State

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Serving with Distinction

Dear Friends:

As Secretary of State, I am proud to oversee one of the oldest statewide law enforcement agencies in Illinois – the Secretary of State Police. Founded in 1913, this department serves all citizens of Illinois.

The department's investigators are trained in all aspects of law enforcement, with special expertise in auto theft investigations and vehicle-related consumer fraud. The department also maintains a Hazardous Device Unit (Bomb Squad) that is used to recover and dispose of bombs throughout the state. The Underwater Investigative Unit conducts auto theft investigations within the waterways of the state, and investigators provide traffic safety training to other law enforcement agencies and the public throughout Illinois.

The men and women of the Secretary of State Police are a source of pride for all of us. They serve our state with distinction and are always pleased to have an opportunity to help you — the citizens of Illinois.

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State

Duties

The Secretary of State Police serves the public by:

- Enforcing laws governing businesses that deal with vehicles and auto parts
- Providing law enforcement for the State Capitol complex
- Inspecting salvage vehicles for stolen parts
- Helping dispose of hazardous explosive devices and chemicals
- Training other governmental agencies in the Illinois Vehicle Code and other police-related subjects
- Promoting traffic safety

Organization

Springfield is home to the Secretary of State Police Command Center (and Support Service personnel) as well as the Police Inquiry Unit, which responds to emergencies and law enforcement inquiries on a 24-hour basis.

The department has five uniformed district offices located in Bellwood, Rockford, Springfield, Mt. Vernon and East St. Louis. The department regulates the automotive industry, tracking auto thieves, conducting surveillance on suspected “chop shops,” infiltrating auto theft rings, investigating fraudulent state identification documents and conducting “sting” operations. Each year, hundreds of thousands of dollars in stolen vehicles and vehicle parts are recovered statewide.

Special Units

The Department of Police has several special units with distinct functions:

Emergency Response Team — Handles high-risk situations, such as civil disturbances, disasters and hostage situations, all of which require the use of specially trained personnel. The focus is on property maintained by the Secretary of State in Springfield.

Special Event Team — Helps oversee large special events at the State Capitol complex, including public gatherings, demonstrations, parades and visiting dignitaries.

Bomb Squad

— Highly-trained investigators who are certified bomb technicians are capable of handling, transporting, disarming and disposing of explosive devices and chemicals.



Salvage Vehicle Inspection Stations — Using four stations around the state, enforces the law by requiring inspection of all rebuilt vehicles. Also has mobile units for field inspections.

Underwater Investigation Unit — Specially trained officers recover stolen vehicles from bodies of water. Assists other law enforcement agencies in their investigations of vehicular criminal offenses involving submerged evidence.

Honor Guard — Represents the department at ceremonies, parades and funerals.

Traffic Safety

Supported by federal funds, the Secretary of State Police conduct several programs promoting traffic safety.

Anti-Drunk Driving Enforcement Project

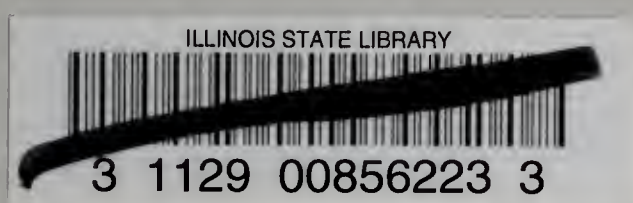
The department hires off-duty investigators to patrol selected routes and apprehend alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers. Some of the video camcorders and portable breath-testing devices are donated by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Aetna Insurance.

Blood-Alcohol Testing Training (BATT)

Certified investigator/trainers instruct local and county police officers in the proper operation of BATT instruments. Officers learn the effects of alcohol and listen to an in-depth interpretation of Illinois DUI laws and other related topics needed to pass the state test.

Training

During a 12-month probationary period, investigators attend a certified 10-week Basic Law Enforcement Course and an advanced eight-week training program. In order to apply their learning in the final phase, trainees are assigned to field training investigators.



For Secretary of State Police services in
your area, please contact:

Command Center:

Springfield (217) 782-7126

Uniformed District Offices:

Bellwood (708) 338-7555

Rockford (815) 987-7560

Springfield (217) 785-5486

Mt. Vernon (618) 244-4525

East St. Louis (618) 398-7790

Salvage Vehicle Inspection Stations:

Chicago (773) 646-5320

Fairview Heights (618) 397-2476

E. Peoria (309) 694-7961

Springfield (217) 557-2084



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